



CEDS: Projects and Priorities

October 14, 2021

Presented by Kennebec Valley Council of Governments
Hosted by Will Harper, KVCOG



► Welcome

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SIX Drivers of Success





Asset-Based Cluster Development

- Mapping regional assets, incorporating specific goals for expanding the economy and promoting prosperity and benchmarks to measure progress toward those goals, and leveraging these regional assets to drive an expansion of the regional economy



Entrepreneurship & Innovation

- Enhancing entrepreneur training and skill building and creating a robust regional entrepreneurial network



Infrastructure & Environment

- The region's Quality of Place, its unique, special, and distinctive mix of natural and built environment, underwrites its competitive advantage in the contest for people with the skills to drive an expanding and more productive economy.



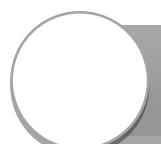
Access to Capital

- The availability of investment capital is essential to economic development, to the start-up firm and to the established company seeking to expand.



Leadership

- The region's leadership cadre reflects the region's demographics; older but with an increasing balance of public and private sector and gender participation.



Education & Workforce

- Creating, retaining, expanding, and attracting stable and diverse businesses that provide jobs with above average wages and benefits is of utmost importance. A concentration of higher education presents a leveraging opportunity to draw people and students, create jobs and drive entrepreneurship and innovation.

**EXPORTS AND
FOREIGN
INVESTMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTALLY-
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**TECHNOLOGY-
BASED
DEVELOPMENT**

EQUITY

**RECOVERY &
RESILIENCE**

**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

MANUFACTURING



*A bureau within
the U.S. Department
of Commerce*

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Applications should align with EDA's investment priorities,
- Effectively address the creation and/or retention of high-quality jobs
 - Leverage other resources, both public and private,
 - Demonstrate the capacity to commence the proposed project promptly and to use funds quickly and effectively,
 - Provide a clear scope of work that includes a description of specific, measurable project outputs

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Equity: Economic development planning or implementation projects that advance equity across America through investments that directly benefit 1) one or more traditionally underserved populations, or 2) underserved communities within geographies that have been systemically and/or systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic prosperity.

Recovery & Resilience: Projects that build economic resilience to and long-term recovery from economic shocks, like those experienced by coal and power plant communities, or other communities impacted by the decline of an important industry or a natural disaster, that may benefit from economic diversification-focused resilience.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Manufacturing: Projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or to the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

Technology-Based Economic Development: Projects that foster regional knowledge ecosystems that support entrepreneurs and startups, including the commercialization of new technologies, that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

Workforce Development: Projects that support workforce education and skills training activities directly connected to the hiring and skills needs of the business community and that result in well-paying, quality jobs.

Environmentally-Sustainable Development: Projects that help address the climate crisis including through the development and implementation of green products , green processes (including green infrastructure), green places , and green buildings.

Exports & Foreign Direct Investment: Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance or build community assets to support growth in US exports or increased foreign direct investment.



What is a quick name for your project?



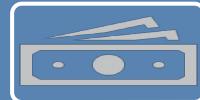
Briefly describe your project.



Describe how this project connects to the broader region.



Who are current and/or potential partners? Who will lead this project?



Describe the funding necessary for this project to occur (both immediate and ongoing).



Describe any matching funds, assets, or other important contributions.



Is there political and public will to see this project move forward? Is there opposition?



How does this project address the CEDS Drivers of Success?



How does this project address EDA's Funding Priorities?



How will we measure this project's success and/or outcomes?

Transformative Infrastructure Projects

PFAS Treatment: Madison – Dale Clark, Anson-Madison Sanitary District

Work with Government agencies to develop a treatment for PFAS (forever chemicals) at the Anson/Madison Sanitary District treatment plant.

Development Status: committee is reaching out for more information, still relatively undeveloped. Further studies needed to examine feasibility for implementation.

Business and Industrial Park Planning Expansion

FirstPark Drive Extension – Jim Dinkle, Kennebec Regional Development Authority/FirstPark

One-half mile street extension that will result in FirstPark lots 19-22 being accessible for future development. The project will include a new street and related infrastructure. The original park design shows the street extended, but fiscal constraints in past years prohibited its completion. Lots in question have frontage on I-95.

Development Status: identifies partners and regional impacts, conceptual estimate for \$1.25 million in construction. Would be good to identify development status and intent of remaining lots. Would also benefit from a needs assessment of regional businesses/industries.

Regionally Significant Recreational Economic Development Projects

Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area – Kristina Cannon, Main Street Skowhegan

The Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area will include a whitewater river park for paddling, surfing, tubing and more in Skowhegan's downtown river gorge; an estimated 50 miles of trails accessible via the commercial core; and a riverfront promenade that connects the river to the downtown and provides viewing opportunities for activities and events happening in the river.

Development Status: Still in fund-raising for an additional \$6.2 million for final design, permitting, and construction of Phase 1. Town has already reserved \$1.4 million for construction and Main Street Skowhegan raised \$600,000. Extensive stakeholder engagement and identified economic development impacts for the region (including complementary efforts to improve downtown Skowhegan).

Entrepreneurship

Dirigo Labs – Garvan Donegan, Central Maine Growth Council

As a public-private economic development partnership fostering a robust mid-Maine economy, CMGC is organizing the tech industry's ability to transition the post-manufacturing economy through the Dirigo Labs (DL) initiative. Through this initiative, DL will galvanize mid-Maine's unique diversity of academic institutions and tech firms to develop a startup accelerator that harnesses the entrepreneurship and digital skills of our students, graduates, academic faculty, and business owners to build a sustainable tech and innovation hub that powers a thriving rural economy.

Development Status: Identified partners and stakeholders, funding needs, timeline, and deliverables. Funding or in-kind support ~\$1.2 million. Project is currently underway.

Social Interest Initiatives*

Central Maine HOME Fund Consortium –

Nancy Williams, Waterville Community Land Trust

Towns and cities may form a consortium to receive Federal HOME funds of \$500,000 and more. An example in Maine are the cities of Lewiston and Auburn.

Development Status: Identified potential participants, needs to engage enough contiguous towns/cities in order to qualify for full funding (MA has a consortium of 40+ towns). Federal funding targets housing which is much needed and much discussed.

*Projects, initiatives and aspirations that are of interest to organizations within the region but may not be directly eligible for funding via the Economic Development Agency

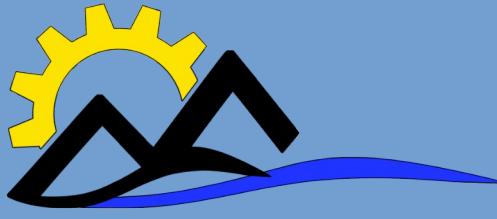
Parcel or Site Level Improvements*

Se(a) Food Sign, Waterville – Kim Lindlof, MMCoC

It would be terrific if there were some way to remove the Seafood Sign that sticks 50' into the air off the KMD/I-95 exit. Not a great look for those coming into Waterville from the South.

Development Status: Limited measurable impacts on regional economy, however it might be part of a broader effort to improve signage and optics... creating a 'gateway' to a community or region. Needs a study to identify projects and potential impacts.

*Projects may need more detail or be reframed for larger economic goal



Questions?

CEDS Rewriting Process

~~Strategies in SmartGrowth~~ ~~February 16th~~

~~Understanding CEDS~~ ~~May 18th~~

~~SWOT Assessment~~ ~~June 17th~~

~~CEDS Data Dive~~ ~~August 18th~~ Click to add text

~~CEDS Projects and Priorities~~ ~~October 14th~~

Submit/Revise CEDS Projects October 31st

Drafting and Editing Fall

Committee (Public) Review Winter

Report Due **March 31, 2022**

